



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Masataka MURATANI
Title: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING METHOD
Appl. No.: 10/724,157
Filing Date: 12/01/2003
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Document A1 discloses a technique of obtaining a shrinkage ratio of the transfer paper on the basis of information obtained from means for detecting the length of the transfer paper after image fixing, and performing image formation by controlling constituent elements of the image formation means such that an image of a size according to the shrinkage ratio is formed.

Document A2 discloses an image forming apparatus comprising measuring means for measuring the lengths and the widths of a recording material before and after fixing, means for calculating a shrinkage ratio and performing image formation with a scaling factor according to the shrinkage ratio, and discloses a measuring mode which uses, in a duplex printing mode, a recording material of a first page for calculating the shrinkage ratio, and forming an image of the second surface on recording materials of a second and following pages, with a scaling factor to the calculated shrinkage ratio, and outputs the recording material of the first page and the recording material of the second page separately outside the apparatus.

Documents A3 and A4 disclose a technique of forming positioning marks (in 4 positions) on a first surface of a recording material, reading the marks by a line sensor, and correcting the position of image in the main-scanning direction, sub-scanning direction and rotation direction of the second surface, and a technique of correcting scaling factors in the main scanning and subscanning.

English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider

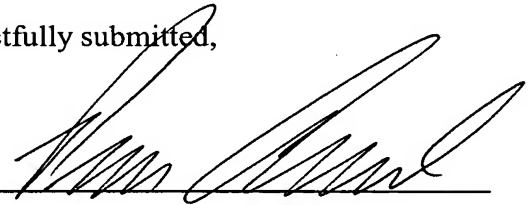
the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are provided herewith.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By



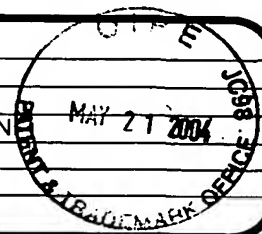
Date May 21, 2004

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: May 21, 2004 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Application Number</td> <td>10/724,157</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>12/01/2003</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>Masataka MURATAN</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group Art Unit</td> <td>Unassigned</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td>Unassigned</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>016907-1582</td> </tr> </table>		Application Number	10/724,157	Filing Date	12/01/2003	First Named Inventor	Masataka MURATAN	Group Art Unit	Unassigned	Examiner Name	Unassigned	Attorney Docket Number	016907-1582
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A1	JP	4-288560	A	RICOH CO., LTD.	10-13-1992		Abst.
	A2	JP	2002-258680	A	KONICA CORP.	09-11-2002		Abst.
	A3	JP	2000-305324	A	CANON INC.	11-02-2000		Abst.
	A4	JP	2003-156974	A	CANON INC.	05-30-2003		Abst.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.